

**DATE:** June 24, 2019  
**TO:** Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Governing Board  
**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 8A: Legislation and Initiatives

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## Legislative Update

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>  
State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

**Current as of 6/03/19**

The following is the status of legislative bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and Assembly potentially of interest to the WCA. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

## PARKS AND WATER

### **AB 209 (Limón D) Parks: Environmental Education: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 1/14/2019, **Status:** Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

**Summary:** This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder, this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided. To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program includes interpretative/naturalist aptitudes, the program envisioned in this bill may underwrite these positions.

**AB 217 (Garcia, Eduardo D) (Burke) Safe Drinking Water for All Act** **Income taxation: credits: exclusions: federal conformity.** **Introduced:** 1/16/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on REV. & TAX. Read second time and amended.

**AB 556 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Community Access Program: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Status:** From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (June 11). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

**Summary:** This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources community education programs, or recreational amenities. Authorizes the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences. Given that, in the aggregate, more than 40% of the households within WCA's jurisdictional scope are disadvantaged, this bill represents a terrific opportunity to enhance programming opportunities.

**AB 933 (Petrie-Norris D) Ecosystem Resilience: Watershed Protection: Watershed Coordinators**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/17/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Water.

**Summary:** Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal to develop and implement watershed improvement plans, and other enhancement plans, aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would authorize the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes.

**AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** In committee: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Summary:** Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025. This bill has become a two-year bill.

**AB 1111 (Friedman D) Office of Outdoor Recreation: California Outdoor Recreation Account**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Commission on Natural Resources & Water and Governor's Office.

**Summary:** This bill replicates the language contained in last year's vetoed AB 1918 and would establish the Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Office of the Governor. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor recreation economy of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office. Given that outdoor participation rates in California pale in comparison to those in neighboring states, this bill among other things, heightens the focus of exploring practices and policies that generate greater outdoor use.

**AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) Park Property: City of El Monte: Pioneer Park**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

**Summary:** Would authorize the City of El Monte to dispose of all or a portion of Pioneer Park property acquired or developed with grant moneys per the Roberti-Z'berg-Harris Urban Open-Space and Recreation Program Act, the Community Parklands Act of 1986, the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act, and subject to the acquisition of property of equal or greater value, as approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation, at no cost to the state.

**AB 1549 (O'Donnell D) Wildlife: Deer: Santa Catalina Island: Report**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/21/2019, **Status:** In committee: Held under submission.

**Summary:** Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to biennially report to the Legislature and Fish and Game Commission on the progress made toward restoration and maintenance of California's deer herds. This bill would require the department to develop by 1/2/2022, a report, in consultation with state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, NGO's, landowners, and scientific agencies to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding deer on Santa Catalina Island, including historic, current and future deer population on the island and assessment of their overall health.

**AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Water.

**Summary:** This bill would add the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island to the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Bill would require the conservancy to update the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Parkway and Open Space Plan to include the priorities for conservation and enhanced public use within the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island.

**ACR 69 (Garcia, Eduardo D) "Parks Make Life Better!" Month**

**Introduced:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Chaptered by Secretary of State - Res. Chapter 82, Statutes of 2019.

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2019 as "Parks Make Life Better!"® Month.

**SB 226 (Nielsen R) Watershed Restoration: Wildfires: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/7/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/17/2019, **Status:** From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill

would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to eligible counties to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire. The bill would require an eligible county receiving funds pursuant to the grant program to submit an annual report to the agency regarding projects funded by the grant program.

**SB 367 (Hueso D) State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/22/2019, **Status:** Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofits for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose. This bill would authorize the conservancy to undertake educational projects and programs for adults and for pupils in kindergarten to grade 12 and to award grants to nonprofits, educational institutions, public agencies, etc. for educational projects and programs related to the preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance, enjoyment of coastal resources and for onsite and distance learning facilities, activities, and instruction programs that support the delivery of science, history and social science. Would authorize conservancy to award grants for the construction and improvement of structures and facilities used for those projects and programs.

**SB 404 (Chang R) State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** May 16 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.

**Summary:** Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units, one of which is the Chino Hills State Park. This bill would require the department to provide all necessary assistance for the state's acquisition and acceptance of four specified parcels from willing sellers that are adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park. Would require the department to agree to accept and manage each parcel as it is acquired with specified funds as part of the Chino Hills State Parks, and to expedite development of a management plan for the parcels once acquired.

**SB 462 (Stern D) Community Colleges: Urban and Rural Forest and Woodlands Restoration and Fire Resiliency Workforce Program**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/30/2019, **Status:** From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Higher Education.

**Summary:** Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, working in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, to establish a model curriculum for a forest and woodlands restoration and fire resiliency workforce program that could be offered at campuses of the California Community Colleges. The bill would require the chancellor's office to distribute the model curriculum to community college districts no later than January 1, 2021, with the goal of enabling interested community college districts to offer the course to students beginning with the 2021–22 academic year.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D) Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation: Project Prioritization**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 3/18/2019, **Status:** From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Committee on Environmental Quality with recommendations to Consent Calendar. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (June 11).

**Summary:** The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, approved by the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election as Proposition 68, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for the purpose of financing a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The act authorizes, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$40,000,000 of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaption to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection, among other things. Among other items, this bill would require specified things of the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the act, including that it prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. Hence, for possible collaborative projects between WCA and the State Coastal Conservancy subject to the \$40 million contained in Proposition 68 for the conservancy, projects must incorporate natural infrastructure such as earthen embankment and shoring, raised or elevated trail improvements so as to avoid sea level rise and inundation.

**AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols**

**Introduced:** 1/28/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (June 5). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

**Summary:** Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the CA Air Resources Board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

**AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Investment Plan: Transformative Climate Communities Program**

**Introduced:** 2/4/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality.

**Summary:** Would, beginning July 1, 2020, require state agencies administering competitive grant programs that allocate moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to give specified communities preferential points during grant application scoring for programs intended to improve air quality, to include a specified application timeline. Requires the Department of Finance to include in an annual report to the Legislature specified information on the applications received for each grant program allocating moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Bill would also authorize the Strategic Growth Council to give grant priority to plans and projects covering areas that have a high proportion of low-income communities.

**AB 382 (Mathis R) Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Grant Funding: Upper Watershed Health**

**Introduced:** 2/5/2019, **Status:** In committee: Held under submission.

**Summary:** Current law provides that an integrated regional water management plan is eligible for funding allocated specifically for implementation of integrated regional water management. Current law requires certain state agencies to include in any set of criteria used to select projects and programs for funding, a criterion that provides a preference for regional projects or programs. This bill would require the Department of Water Resources to include in any criteria used to select a project or program for grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020 a criterion that provides a preference for a regional water management group undertaking a project improving upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan. The bill, if consistent with a general obligation bond act providing grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020, would require a group to contribute a lower amount of matching funds as a local cost share for a project that improves upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan.

**AB 552 (Stone D) Coastal Resources: Coastal Adaptation: Access, and Resilience Program**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/30/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Water.

**Summary:** Would establish the Coastal Adaptation, Access, and Resilience Program for the purpose of funding specified activities intended to help the state prepare, plan, and implement actions to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change. The bill would create the Coastal Adaptation, Access, and Resilience Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the California Coastal Commission and specified state agencies to expend moneys in the fund, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to take actions, based upon the best scientific information, that are designed to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change, as prescribed.

**SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 4/4/2019, **Status:** May 6 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific.

**SB 576 (Umberg D) State Coastal Conservancy: Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

**Summary:** Would require the State Coastal Conservancy to develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program to, among other things, recommend best practices and strategies to improve the climate change resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat and collaborate with certain entities and scientists to facilitate information

sharing regarding coastal climate change adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness using the Office of Planning and Research Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program state clearinghouse.

## BUDGET

On the budget front, the California Natural Resources Agency, has submitted a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) which outlines the appropriation timetables associated with the roll-out of Proposition 68 (See the following link: [https://esd.dof.ca.gov/Documents/bcp/1920/FY1920\\_ORG0540\\_BCP2935.pdf](https://esd.dof.ca.gov/Documents/bcp/1920/FY1920_ORG0540_BCP2935.pdf)). Also, regrettably, Governor Newsom's 2019-20 proposed allocation/investment strategy through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund places little emphasis on programs of interest to RMC, including natural and working lands investments (watersheds and coastal wetlands), and the funding of urban greenspace improvements such as the Urban Greening and Urban Forestry Programs. This funding deficiency has resulted in a joint-letter to the respective budget committees by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia and Senator Ben Allen encouraging an investment of \$400 million in these areas and the content of that letter is reflected in the GGRF investments proposed by the respective legislative houses (see chart below).

Chart is from the 2019-20 California Budget Conference Report – Resources and Transportation Conference Committee on AB 74 (Item 3900, page 15). Link to the report is: [https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Resources\\_and\\_Transportation.pdf](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Resources_and_Transportation.pdf)

### 3900 Air Resources Board (ARB)

Issue	Description
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#### Issue 12: Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plan

**Governor** proposed \$1.25 billion Cap-and-Trade expenditure plan.

**Senate** did not approve the Governor's proposal and instead adopted a \$1.5 billion expenditure plan and provisional language regarding wildlife-urban interface and other fire prevention activities.

**Assembly** did not approve the Governor's proposal and instead adopted a \$1.4 billion expenditure plan, placeholder provisional language and placeholder trailer bill language (TBL).

**2019-20 Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plans**  
(in Millions)

CATEGORY	GOVERNOR	SENATE	ASSEMBLY
Low Carbon Transportation	447	547	660
Air Toxic and Criteria Pollutants	230	70	275
Forests	200	268	200
Integrated Climate Action and Resilience	151	289	185
Agriculture	153	185	45
Waste Diversion and Recycling	25	75	25
Climate and Energy Research and Technical Assistance	12	27	10
Workforce Training*	35	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,253</b>	<b>\$1,461</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>

\* Assembly plan provides \$27 million (Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Fund) for workforce training at the Energy Commission.

**Conference issues** are the differing expenditure plans as proposed by the Governor, Senate, and Assembly, provisional language added by the Senate, and placeholder provisional language and placeholder TBL added by the Assembly.

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:** The Angeles National Forest (ANF) Forest Supervisor, Jerry Perez signed the Decision Notice (NOD) for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM) Plan on May 30, 2019. A news release was printed in the Los Angeles Times. This action marks the culmination of a collaborative effort with the ANF's many partners. The U.S. Forest Service plan prioritizes environmental protection over economic development and, in some cases, recreational access — limiting overnight camping along certain popular rivers and streams because of its ecological toll.

A statement from ANF Supervisor Perez from the NOD, "The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument presents a unique and exceptional opportunity for the Forest Service to: (1) demonstrate how resilient forest landscapes and healthy ecosystems can thrive side-by-side with major infrastructure; (2) cultivate connections between a diverse urban population and nature in a county with little open space; and (3) employ collaboration and partnerships to improve access, conservation education, and visitor services. This Monument Plan reflects my belief that this Monument is a valuable investment in the health and well-being of local communities and the people of Southern California for generations to come. I have reviewed the Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA); comments from Federal, state and local governments, Indian Tribes, and the public; and supporting documents, and have selected Alternative 3 (selected Alternative) as the Monument Plan. The selected Alternative includes additional plan components to benefit transportation and access, sustainable recreation, and heritage and biological resources to enhance protection of Monument resources while balancing use and enjoyment by a diverse visiting public."

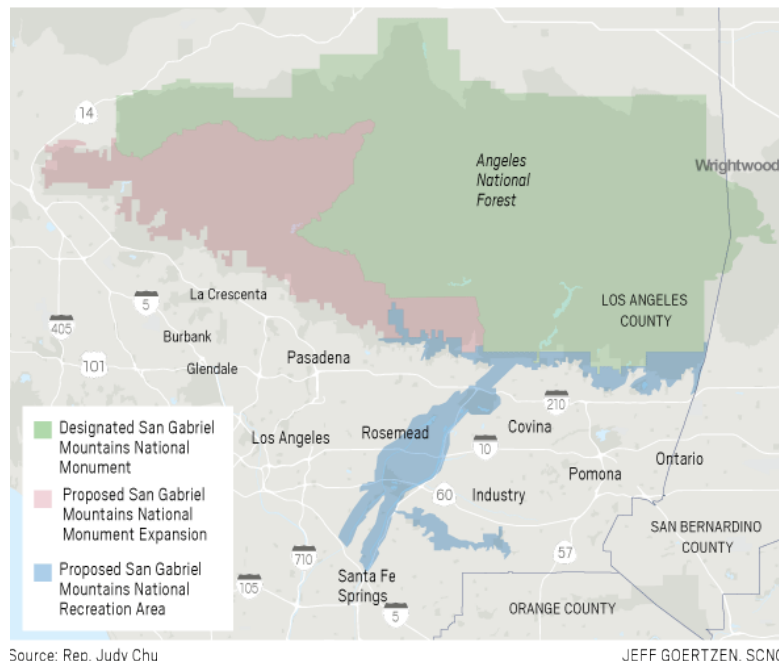
**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative:** The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) held its last meeting on Thursday May 23rd, 2019, from 9am-1pm, at the Altadena Community Center. The collaborative continues to work on challenges faced by the forest regarding community access, visitor management, and protection of natural resources. The May meeting included an overview of the upcoming Action Plan template and goals, presentations from ad hoc committees on priority projects, and a presentation by WCA staff updating the Collaborative on agency projects, including the Crystal Lake Recreation Area and San Gabriel Canyon Recreation Area Planning effort being conducted in partnership with U.S. Forest Service within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

*The SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical ad-hoc Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. Meetings occur every other month at the Altadena Community Center.*

**Summary: S.3704 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)**  
**Introduced in Senate (12/05/2018) By: Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)**  
**San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act**

This bill establishes the San Gabriel National Recreation Area in California, establishes the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Public Advisory Council and the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Partnership, modifies the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in California, designates specified National Forest System lands in Angeles National Forest in California as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and designates specified river segments in California as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.





**Summary: H.R. 1708—116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020)**

**Introduced in the House of Representatives By: Congressman Adam Schiff**  
**Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act**

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act consists of a plan to identify an alternative or combination of alternatives for a new proposed boundary within the National Recreation Area.

**The Rim of The Valley Corridor Study Area** consisted of 650,000 acres in the Los Angeles Area and included 153,000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and 180,000 acres of National Forest Land. 80% of the land in the Study Area is undeveloped and or already protected open space run by various agencies and conservancies. The Study areas includes Griffith Park, Elysian Park, the LA River, and the Verdugo Mountains. The centerpiece of the area is the 200-mile long Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail, which is currently 40% complete.

This legislation has been re-introduced by the author after a final 400+ report was completed an exhaustive 400+ page report), where the Park Service (NPS) determined that this region contains a very high number of unique, nationally-significant resources including biological, geological, historic, and cultural sites. The list of resources is incredibly, almost overwhelmingly diverse. The Study goes into great detail on what makes this region special — including our rare Mediterranean climate, unique and active geology, many endemic species of plants and animals (our ‘South Coast Ecoregion’ supports more than 33% of California’s native plant species in only 8% of the land area. According to the report, there are more endemic plant and animal species in this ecoregion than any other ecoregion in the country!), and our vast collection of historic and cultural sites — ranging from Native American sites and Spanish missions to historic gold and oil fields, exemplary architecture, and important Space Age sites.

